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## Please Your Professors

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# Please Your Professors

*Classroom attitude and interest are important factors in a student's advancement, says Ruth Midgorden*

**N**OW that clothes are unpacked, registration is over and the first homesick tears have been shed, you may wonder what will happen when you enter your classrooms.

Professors, like you and your roommates, are unconsciously or consciously influenced by the little things that constitute your appearance and attitude.

With an eye to good grooming, most professors will notice if your hair is smooth and well-brushed and if your clothes are clean and pressed. You may not realize that your nail polish is chipped but others will spy it immediately, particularly your professors, who will automatically deduct ten points from your otherwise perfect appearance.

Orderliness is a virtue which is appreciated by every professor. If you take notes methodically and write them in a clear, large hand, your chances of gaining his favor are a good 10 to 1. Legible notes that can be found and referred to easily place you in a prominent spot in your instructor's regard.

Typewritten, double-spaced reports which have felt the imprint of a good, black ribbon make it easier for your papers to pass the strict censorship of orderliness. A professor can't resist favoring a neatly typed or written paper—which, in many cases, makes for a better grade. Papers written or scrawled in a small, fine hand are bugbears.

Most professors, plagued by seemingly countless papers to grade, abhor colored ink or pencil-written

papers so if your favorite ink is a green or brown to match your stationery, save it for correspondence with your close friends.

Attitude is that intangible something which tells your instructor whether or not you deserve to be in college. Those who come to school in search of knowledge, for the sake of knowledge itself, rise fast in the opinion of instructors. Those who come to college merely to "get by" would please their instructors more if they had never enrolled in their courses. Professors are delighted to find students not limited by the covers of their textbooks.

Every instructor knows—and students sometimes discover—that examinations are minimum tests of knowledge. Students who continually complain about unfair treatment or ask what exams will cover don't rate the category of scholars.

Intrepid students will not accept everything a professor says as gospel, but will question and will spend time verifying his opinions. Naturally, mere opinionating for the sake of argument will get you nowhere, but honest, logical reasoning will cover miles.

Another important attitude is the value which a student places on time management. You will have to plan your work carefully and budget your time. You can't play every evening, nor must you work too steadily. Students who earn a part or all of their college expenses will have to learn early that there is a maximum to human physical endurance and that it is not wise to tax their bodies to that limit or beyond it consistently.

Expenditure of energy and time must be evened up. Each professor expects a certain amount of time to be devoted to his course. Although sometimes it is difficult to do because interests vary, students should try to place a fairly even amount of emphasis on each course.

Your ability to express yourself is particularly noticed by the instructor. Learn early, if you have not already mastered the art, to tell others your ideas, opinions and thoughts coherently and logically.

Exhibit an active interest in classwork and participate. It isn't enough to be a sideler and let others express the thoughts you are thinking. In many courses, your class recitation is almost the only basis for your grade. At the same time, you must employ temperance and not be offensive about displaying your knowledge. You can make a definite contribution to your class without making yourself disliked or misunderstood by the other class members.

*Professors welcome students such as those in this government class who are interested in their work and contribute their ideas and opinions to the group discussions*

